



Fatale: Deluxe Edition, Volume Two

Ed Brubaker (Writer), Sean Phillips (Artist, Letterer), Dave Stewart (Colourist), Elizabeth Breitweiser (Colourist)

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Fatale: Deluxe Edition, Volume Two Ed Brubaker (Writer) , Sean Phillips (Artist, Letterer) , Dave Stewart (Colourist) , Elizabeth Breitweiser (Colourist)

This Deluxe Edition presents the conclusion of Brubaker and Phillip's bestselling horror-noir series *Fatale* in a gorgeous hardcover edition filled with insightful extras and behind-the-scenes artwork. This is the book for serious Brubaker and Phillips collectors!

Collecting: *Fatale* 11-24

Fatale: Deluxe Edition, Volume Two Details

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Author : Ed Brubaker (Writer) , Sean Phillips (Artist, Letterer) , Dave Stewart (Colourist) , Elizabeth Breitweiser (Colourist)

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Download and Read Free Online Fatale: Deluxe Edition, Volume Two Ed Brubaker (Writer) , Sean Phillips (Artist, Letterer) , Dave Stewart (Colourist) , Elizabeth Breitweiser (Colourist)

From Reader Review *Fatale: Deluxe Edition, Volume Two* for online ebook

Richard says

The femme fatale is a figure as old as time, from Salome and Lady Macbeth all the way to Mal Cobb in *Inception*. The *Fatale* series takes this idea and runs with it, with this volume continuing to explore the legacy of our cursed femme fatale throughout the ages and finally tying it all together in an epic climax where Josephine confronts the forces that are out to exploit her and Nicolas Lash's story comes to a shocking end. It's refreshingly character-focused, and its blend of cosmic horror and classic noir is ambitious and original. Must-read for fans of both the noir and horror genres.

Aaron says

A little shaky, but still an impressive dismount for this incredibly entertaining series. Brubaker and Phillips have yet again delivered a genre-bending ode to noir that's right up there with their best work. Whereas the previous volume raised more questions than it answered, this volume dives headfirst into answering them, and the answers are, for the most part, satisfying.

That said, it feels like the team had to do a little heavy lifting to get into position for addressing these lingering mysteries. The book opens with a series of short stories about previous holders of the power Jo controls, and what ultimately happened to them (as you can probably guess, nothing good). It's a thought-provoking and intriguing way of foreshadowing all that's to happen in the latter two-thirds of the book, while sometimes feeling like a bit of a stall. That said, in retrospect these stories do a lot to service the central plot, but sometimes the in-the-moment reading of them felt a little labored.

Then we get back to Jo, and it's basically a straight shot to the end, as the present-day storyline we've been witnessing in short bursts since the beginning of the series begins to merge with the past, finally building to a huge climax. I found the final third of the book, which is all set in the present, to be the most compelling storyline of the entire series, and absolutely could not put it down. All these little details Brubaker's been dropping throughout the series start to add up and pay off, and it's great to see that he knew where he was going this whole time.

However, I feel like the need to tie all the little bits together sometimes superseded Brubaker's previous devotion to character. Jo's aura of mystery starts to fall off a little bit as the story progresses, replaced with a lot of forward plot movement instead. It's arguable which is better, but I did miss the character development a little bit towards the end. I also didn't love a certain reveal about what drives her to do what she does, as it felt a little cliché. I won't say what it is, but I bet you'll know what I'm talking about.

All in all, though, *Fatale* is a fabulous series that reads like a great detective novel laid on top of a great cosmic horror novel. It's weird and dark and violent and borderline hopeless, but that's what makes it work.

Wayne McCoy says

In 'Fatale Vol. 2: Deluxe Edition' Ed Brubaker and Sean Phillips do what they do best. I can not say enough good things about how good their stories are.

Fatale is a horror story about Josephine, a woman that seems to be immortal and no man can refuse. Whether she wants to or not, the men around her are influenced by her to the point where they will even kill themselves at her command. A mysterious man known as the Bishop is after her for his own purposes. Josephine's stories in this volume are mostly told at different periods during the Twentieth Century, but there are a few earlier stories. She finds allies along the way with mysterious librarians and people who can give themselves tattoos or symbols to make themselves immune to her. There are also her hapless victims. A flailing alternative band in 1990s Seattle, a group of soldiers in Nazi Germany. Her attempts to be rid of the curse of herself seems destined to fail.

Collecting Fatale volumes 3 through 5 and weighing in at over 400 pages, this is a really good collector's edition with lots of the process of creating comics included. There are also reprints of some of the columns included in the single issues that were written by Jess Nevins. His history essays are very good and talk about Aleister Crowley and the H.P. Lovecraft, two big influences on the work here.

Previously, I had read volume 4, and hadn't read previous work in the series. This helped make that volume make sense. Some have said they didn't like how the series ended, but I like it quite fine. As I mentioned, the writing and art is as good as you get in comics these days and the creators make a nod to colorist Elizabeth Breitweiser. Her work here lends itself really well.

I received a review copy of this graphic novel from Diamond Book Distributors, Image Comics, and NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. Thank you for allowing me to review this fine graphic novel.

Patrick says

Solid storytelling is what you expect from Ed Brubaker and You get that here. very dark adult horror story. Great Artwork by Sean Phillips as well.

I received an advanced copy of this from NetGalley.com and the publisher.

Shannon Appelcline says

This second volume nicely demonstrates the elegant structure of *Fatale*.

Square in the middle of the whole series we get "West of Hell", which opens up the setting with a set of shorts strung across hundreds of years. They're evocative and eye-opening, promising a larger story than what we saw. But in the end, I'm not sure how critical that larger view was. You could almost read the series without it.

Then we get "Pray for Rain", another period piece, and one of the best in large part because we get a more sizable cast, and then we get to see what happens when Jo uses her witchy magic on them. (It's also nice to get such strong connections to the modern-day.)

Finally, the ending, "Curse the Demon", closes out our frame by bringing us the modern day. It isn't as strong as any of the previous volumes, because the mysterious is made matter-of-fact and the dangers we edged around before are brought to the center. Maybe if I cared more about Jo or Nick, I'd find this fulfilling. As is, it's just the inevitable end to the story.

So, I admire the structure of *Fatale*, and I love its view of past time periods, but I think the main plot somewhat outstayed its welcome and when it comes to an end the story doesn't have a lot that's unexpected.

Donovan says

The many lives and deaths of Josephine, our immortal femme fatale, are extraordinary. Volume 1 breaks the ice, but Volume 2 plummets the cold oceanic depths.

I can't even review this to do it justice. The story now spans a near-millennium, detailing the love, lust, and tragedies of a cursed woman. Texas 1936. France 1286. Colorado 1883. Romania 1943. Seattle 1995. Northern California 2014. San Francisco 1906. Each setting unique and with its own complications. Ed Brubaker's story is horrific, supernatural, noir, and darkly romantic, and one of the greatest in indie comics I've ever read.

Sean Phillips really steps it up. His gritty realism continues, but the emotions and panel progressions are even more spectacular, not merely cinematic, but as if you're actually there. The wide panels and splash pages, especially those that are painted, are just perfect. Dave Stewart and Elizabeth Breitweiser color the first and second halves of the book and they are equally incredible. Muted, deep, and textured. The artwork brings this world to life.

Just incredible. One of the most complex and ambitious comic works I've ever read, and probably the best from Brubaker so far, in my opinion. Do yourself a favor and check out the underrated *Fatale* series.

Baal Of says

while I very much enjoyed the first two volumes which successfully blended hard-boiled noir with cosmic horror, the Brubaker/Philips team took it over the top with this story, which was served well in the larger deluxe volume. Filling in Josephine's history with the series of single shot issues was a stroke of inspiration, and the over-arching story was just plain cool. Brubaker walks the line between clarity and mystery with precision, revealing enough to make the story cohesive, but leaving enough oddities to create a sense of unease and hidden depths. I particularly liked the section that used the struggling band as a backdrop, especially since I've seen some of the same self-destructive behaviors, and creative struggles with musicians I've personally known., excluding the bank robberies of course.

Craig says

Glad to finally read this since I lost track of this series about midway through. I love the collaborations

between Ed Brubaker and Sean Phillips, from Sleeper to Criminal to Incognito and now The Fade-Out, and Fatale is among the best. The series follows a mysterious woman as she moves through various time periods, always seeming to drive some men crazy with her beauty/allure, while being a target for others. It's never really entirely clear what is going on with this woman, but there's a strong Lovecraftian vibe running through all of this that keeps the stories never less than fascinating. This volume looks at the mystery woman in several past vignettes: medieval France, the old West, etc. Then there's an extended sequence wherein she comes into the orbit of a struggling rock band in Seattle. And then there's the concluding arc. It's all very mysterious, although a few answers are finally provided, and the artwork by Phillips drives things beautifully. If I had one complaint, it would be that the whole thing remains just a bit too unclear and enigmatic at the end. But I guess that's rather fitting, given the subject matter. High recommendation.

John Shaw says

Two of the things I love most are
Noir Detective stories
And
Horror Stories

This series combines both brilliantly

Libby says

Amazing

Chaunceton Bird says

This character study has changed the way I think about femme fatales. Far from the usual stock character, Josephine is a complex individual caught up a cosmic void of unimaginable depravity. This story is completely original, but has some familiarities that will make fans of Lovecraft feel right at home. Volume two was just as hard-hitting as volume one. I would certainly recommend reading the first volume first, but after that, dive into this one right away—while the story is still fresh.

Michael Benavidez says

So this continues the story from the last issue.

Sadly it continues it with a bunch of stand alone issues that seem to have been released in between the previous issues. This has always been a peeve of mine, when series have been placed into a bundle. They tend to take stand alone issues and throw them all together somewhere in the beginning of the next bundle just so they can not worry about that. I feel like it takes away from the story they want to tell.

Like with this Deluxe Edition for example. The stand alone issues seem out of place, and slightly bored without the context of when they should have appeared. Or maybe this is the order they were released, in which case I still don't like it. It seems rushed to give us some explanation so they don't have to do it later on.

Anywho, that's why i got the one star off. I think that could have been handled better, and it's a bit of a nitpick. So sue me, not really. Please don't.

The rest of the story does well, though. It picks things up, both past and present. Gives us a time slot and connects the characters really well to get us to the finale we needed. The art for that finale, while completely different from the episodic panels from the rest of the series, is phenomenal. It takes everything that was built up and let things land as they should have.

The ending is a bit lackluster, but it's the perfect ending to be honest. There's really no other way it could have ended, and for the two main characters, they got their peace. Or as much peace as they could ever have.

Char says

Fatale: Deluxe Edition, Volume 2 is a stunningly beautiful piece of cosmic horror meets noir.

This one has two essays at the end, like the first one did, both by Jess Nevins. This time around the subjects are H.P. Lovecraft, (again), and Aleister Crowley. I found both to be interesting and informative.

In this volume we learn more about where Josephine has been and where she's going and of course there are a few sexy times in between, most especially when she does a video for the rock band Amsterdam. As always happens with Jo, the good times start rolling into dark times at the flick of a switch, and they keep on rolling right down to the depths of hell.

I can't recommend these enough-especially if you enjoy classic tropes turned on their heads and lots of tentacles in your artwork.

Relstuart says

A grim story with an interesting premise. Didn't have the twists and turns some of Brubaker's other writing does. Sadly this ends up being on the lower end of the scale for Brubaker's stuff for me.

Jeff Lanter says

Fatale is a series that I loved the concept and the execution almost immediately and I was very excited to see how the series concluded. Normally I would review each volume in detail, but I think I will instead just discuss the volume as a whole to keep this review more concise. It seems that some people find the ending either to be surprising and not what they wanted or pretty much perfect. I think it is absolutely perfect and I love the way it focuses on the protagonist instead of the plot as many comics often do. While I didn't feel it with Volume 3, Volumes 4 and 5 were incredibly hard to put down. The level of suspense and wanting to know what would happen next were irresistible. The volume on the grunge band in Seattle was just incredible and such a smart adaptation of noir into a new setting and time period as well. I was also

impressed by the way the characters got fleshed out and how the noir conventions were combined with Lovecraft throughout Fatale too. If you like Josephine's character and the idea of the Femme Fatale being a curse, then I think you'll find the ending powerful and satisfying. I will say the book gets kind of heady near the end and I feel like I need to read it again to fully understand the last volume, but if you don't find that too intimidating or let it dissuade you, it is a really strong way for the series to finish.

Of course, it goes without saying that Fatale has some the best art in comics too. Having the cover gallery is typical for a hardcover but very welcome because Fatale has such striking covers that are fun to flip through and admire. I also loved both of the essays about Aleister Crowley and H.P. Lovecraft which were smartly written and very engaging. I felt the same way about Criminal, but this is a book in hardcover I want to own forever because I know I will want to return to this world and read it again. It may not turn out exactly like you expect, but it is another masterpiece from Brubaker and Phillips and if it sounds something you'd enjoy then you should definitely not miss it.
